



USEU SNAPSHOTS

WORKING TOGETHER, SHARING INTERESTS

(A NEWSLETTER FROM THE U.S. MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION)



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Focus on Outcomes: Ambassador Kennard to AmCham EU Conference



Ambassador William E. Kennard (photo: Sandrine D'Hoedt).

"As our economies struggle to recover from the worst recession in half a century, those of us who have a stake in the transatlantic relationship have a huge responsibility to make sure that this relationship -- which represents roughly half of the economic output on the planet -- is nurtured in a smart and focused way," Ambassador William E. Kennard said to an AmCham EU conference on "The Transatlantic Relationship: Outlook for a New Decade" in Brussels on March 4. "So as we organize our work together -- whether through the TEC [Transatlantic Economic Council] or the myriad other ways in which we interact with the EU -- we don't have the luxury to simply go through the motions, with our agendas, and our workstreams and our dialogues. We have an obligation to

spend time on a shared vision of what is most important for this relationship. We must focus on the outcomes that will move the needle. The actions that our political leaders will recognize have real value. Outcomes that will bring sustained economic growth and get our people back to work," he said. [Read](#) or [watch](#) the speech.

USEU and EU Musical Collaboration

USEU Political Chief Christopher Davis teamed up with two Italian musicians from the European Commission and the Italian aviation administration for a concert with flutes and guitar in December at the Church of the Dominicans in downtown Brussels. Before an audience of nearly 100 people, they performed solos, duos, and trios of compositions by Piazzolla, Granados, Debussy, Mangoré, Koehler, Nikolova (world premier), and others. They are expanding their repertoire to include more music composed for them.



Christopher Davis (center) and his Italian bandmates perform onstage. (photo: Marguerite Davis)

Young Professionals Offer Transatlantic New Year's Resolutions



The Ambassador (bottom center) with winners of the New Year's Challenge. (photo: Sandrine D'Hoedt)

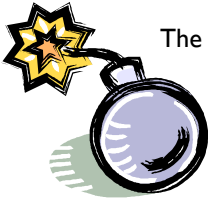
In cooperation with two networks of Brussels-based young European professionals interested in foreign policy, USEU launched an email call for New Year's Resolutions for the U.S.-EU partnership inviting young professionals to send their wishes and ideas for how the transatlantic relationship could develop. Among the winning entries were suggestions to improve U.S.-EU cooperation at a First-Responder level in addressing common security threats and calling on the U.S. to sign a bilateral transatlantic agreement with the EU on combating climate change to include binding targets on cutting CO2 emissions. Ambassador Kennard hosted a breakfast for the ten authors of the winning ideas, who represented six nationalities including the U.S.

Read the winning entries on our [website](#).



<http://useu.usmission.gov/> We welcome your feedback on USEU Snapshots at useupa@state.gov

U.S. and EU Discuss Explosives, Chemical Precursors, and Detection at Security Seminar



The second EU-U.S. Explosives Security Seminar was held in Brussels on February 17-18. Experts from the EU Member States, the United States, the Commission, Europol and the European Defence Agency concentrated on the high-priority topics of reducing the misuse of chemicals as precursors to explosives, detection of explosives, and response-related issues. They also participated in a session on the lessons to be learned from the attempted attack against the Northwest Airlines Amsterdam-Detroit flight on Christmas Day.

USAID Administrator in Spain: Continued Partnership with EU

USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah participated in an informal EU Development Ministers meeting in La Granja, Spain, on February 17-18. Shah emphasized the importance of continued partnership and offered several examples of successes on the ground in Haiti thanks to the coordinated international response, such as the distribution of a two-week supply of food to over three million Haitians. He also participated in a press conference with representatives from the EU and the UN, where he underlined that U.S. relief efforts in that country are following the UN lead. Find out more about [USAID](#).



USAID Administrator Shah, Spanish Foreign Minister Moratinos, Spanish Secretary of State for Cooperation Rodriguez, and other EU officials. (photo: Katherine Ortiz)

Local Students Learn American History through Folk Music



Mullaney sings folk songs with students at the Brussels International School. (photo: courtesy Dan Mullaney)

USEU Trade Officer Dan Mullaney led four “American Folk Music” sessions with fourth and fifth graders at the Brussels International School on February 4. As the students sang along, they learned about the historical context of each song, from the American Revolution and the French and Indian War (“Yankee Doodle”), to slavery and spirituals (“Go Down, Moses” and Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”), to the gold rush and cowboy era (“Clementine,” “Home on the Range”), and representations of other periods of American history (“This land is your land” and “Puff, the Magic Dragon,” among others). The students enjoyed the singing and were interested in the European and African roots in American history (for instance, that the term “yankees” may have referred to the large Dutch population in the Americas, having the common first names “Jan” and “Kees.”)

Ambassador Kennard at European Policy Centre: Meaningful Alignment

On January 13, Ambassador Kennard spoke at the European Policy Centre (EPC) on the future of the EU-U.S. strategic partnership. “If you think about many of the President’s top diplomatic priorities for his Administration, there is a meaningful alignment between many of his top priorities and those of the European Union – climate change, nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation, an engaged Middle East policy, more focus on development,” Ambassador Kennard declared. “We are at a unique moment in time for the transatlantic relationship, because we have a unique opportunity to reframe and reinvigorate the transatlantic partnership and accomplish much together.” [Read](#) or [watch](#) the speech.



Ambassador Kennard (photo: Sandrine D’Hoedt)

Ruth Greenspan Bell: COP15 “Kicked Up the Level”



Ruth Greenspan Bell (center) discusses the climate change debate. (Photo: Sandrine D'Hoedt)

Ruth Greenspan Bell, Acting U.S. Climate Policy Director of the Washington-based World Resources Institute, spoke March 4 at The Centre, where she provided insights into the internal U.S. debate on an international climate change agreement prior to and after the Copenhagen COP-15. Addressing Brussels-based NGOs, European officials, staffers at the European Parliament and climate change experts, she explained the wide range of actions underway within the U.S. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Bell emphasized both the U.S. federal government's unprecedented action and ongoing regional and state actions. “If you only look at the Congress, you are

watching too narrowly,” she said. Walking her audience through what's going on in the U.S., she emphasized the variety of tools being used “to reduce the numbers” of greenhouse gases, including the Administration's economic stimulus package, EPA actions and successful regional and local climate initiatives. She also candidly answered questions on the transatlantic differences in legislative and cultural approaches to the complex issue of climate change. Ruth Greenspan Bell optimistically argued that COP15 had “kicked up the level” in participation. “It's good that the leaders attended, talked to each other and discussed their point of view.”

U.S. AFRICOM: Building Capacity in Africa

Officials from the U.S. Defense Department's Africa Command (AFRICOM) held initial exploratory meetings March 4 with EU leadership to explain how AFRICOM works through civilian-military activities with African nations and organizations to help build regional security and crisis-response capacity. Ambassador J. Anthony Holmes, the Deputy to the Commander for Civil-Military Activities, and Major General Richard Sherlock, AFRICOM's Director of Strategy, Plans and Programs, came “to listen and learn what are the Commission's priorities, and where our interests can align with each other, then to be able to explore areas where we might be able to work with each other” as the U.S. and EU seek to respond to common challenges in Africa.



U.S. Data Privacy Principles and Practices Explained



Nancy Libin (right) speaks on data privacy at CEPS. (photo: Sandrine D'Hoedt)

Two recent programs brought together experts and stakeholders on data protection and data privacy principles, practices and laws. On March 5, Nancy Libin, Chief Privacy and Civil Liberties Officer at the U.S. Department of Justice, met with EU officials and members of the European Parliament and spoke at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS). Mary Ellen Callahan, Chief Privacy Officer at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, met with MEPs and addressed a group of EU and government representatives, academics, journalists, business leaders and others at The Centre on March 8. Libin emphasized that common misconceptions about the U.S. data privacy regime are at the heart of the

debate on the differences between how the U.S. and the EU treat personal data, as the two systems actually have much in common. She discussed privacy issues in the context of law enforcement cooperation, including the U.S.-EU mutual legal assistance and extradition agreements that came into force February 1 and ongoing U.S.-EU discussions on common personal data protection principles. Callahan explained that privacy officers within each U.S. government Department aimed to “build in essential privacy protections from the ground,” and that redress mechanisms were available to all, Europeans as well as Americans. She emphasized that the Passenger Name Records (PNR) agreement, which recently underwent review by the U.S. and EU, is part of an effective system designed to keep travelers safe worldwide, and that it has resulted in identifying terrorist and criminal suspects.



Mary Ellen Callahan (left) answers questions at The Centre. (photo: Sandrine D'Hoedt)